PUBLIC ART IN PARTNERSHIP WITH URBAN REGENERATION

Vol.1

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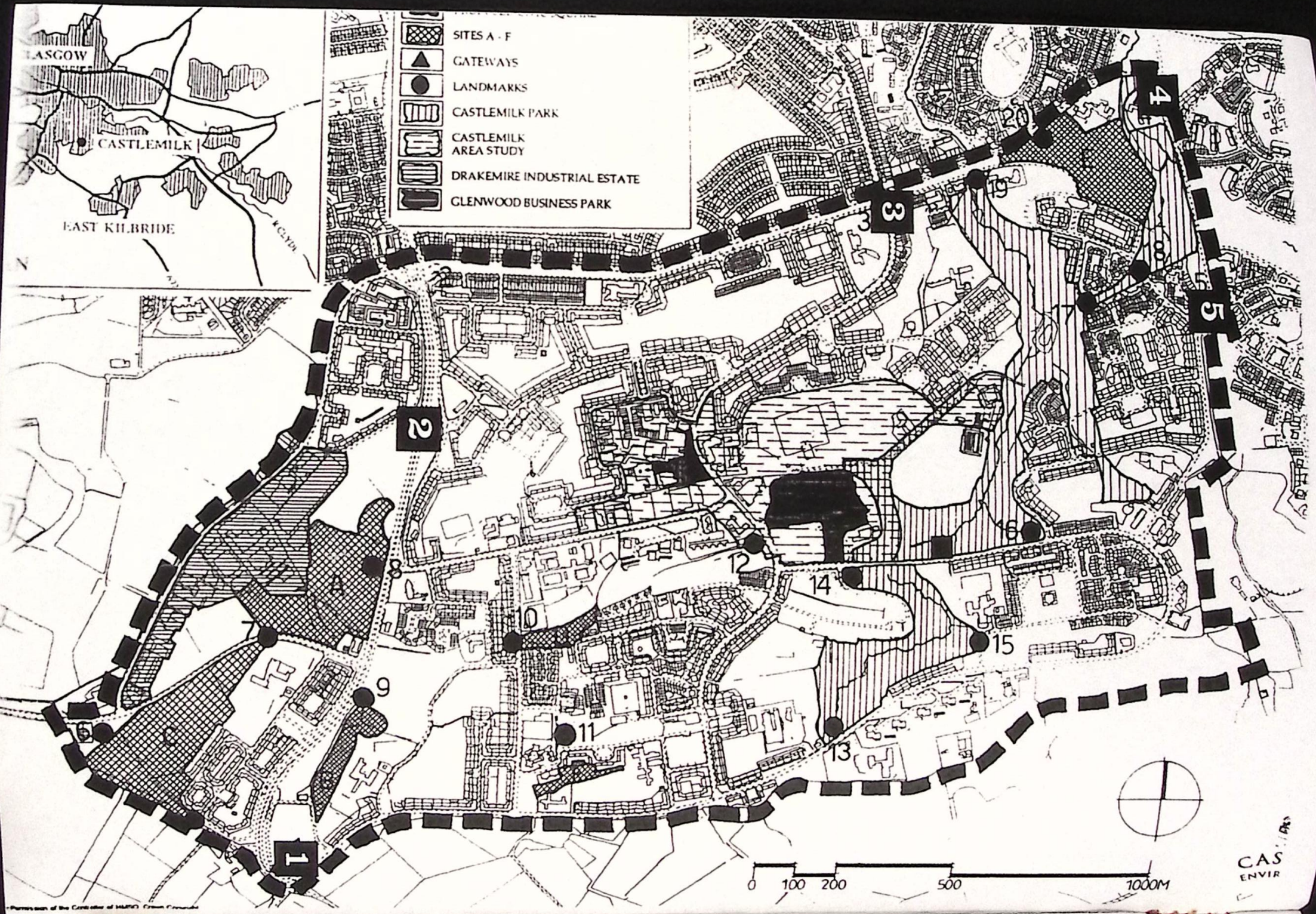
SITES A - F
GATEWAYS
LANDMARKS
CASTLEMILK PARK
CASTLEMILK AREA STUDY
DRAKEMIRE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
GLENWOOD BUSINESS PARK
GLASGOW
CASTLEMILK
EAST KILBRIDE
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RICK KIRBY
Castle Kids Out of School Care

DOUG COCKER
COJAC

PAUL GRIME
St Bartholomews Primary School
Castlemilk Youth Complex

MICHAEL DAN ARCHER
Castlemilk Womans Group

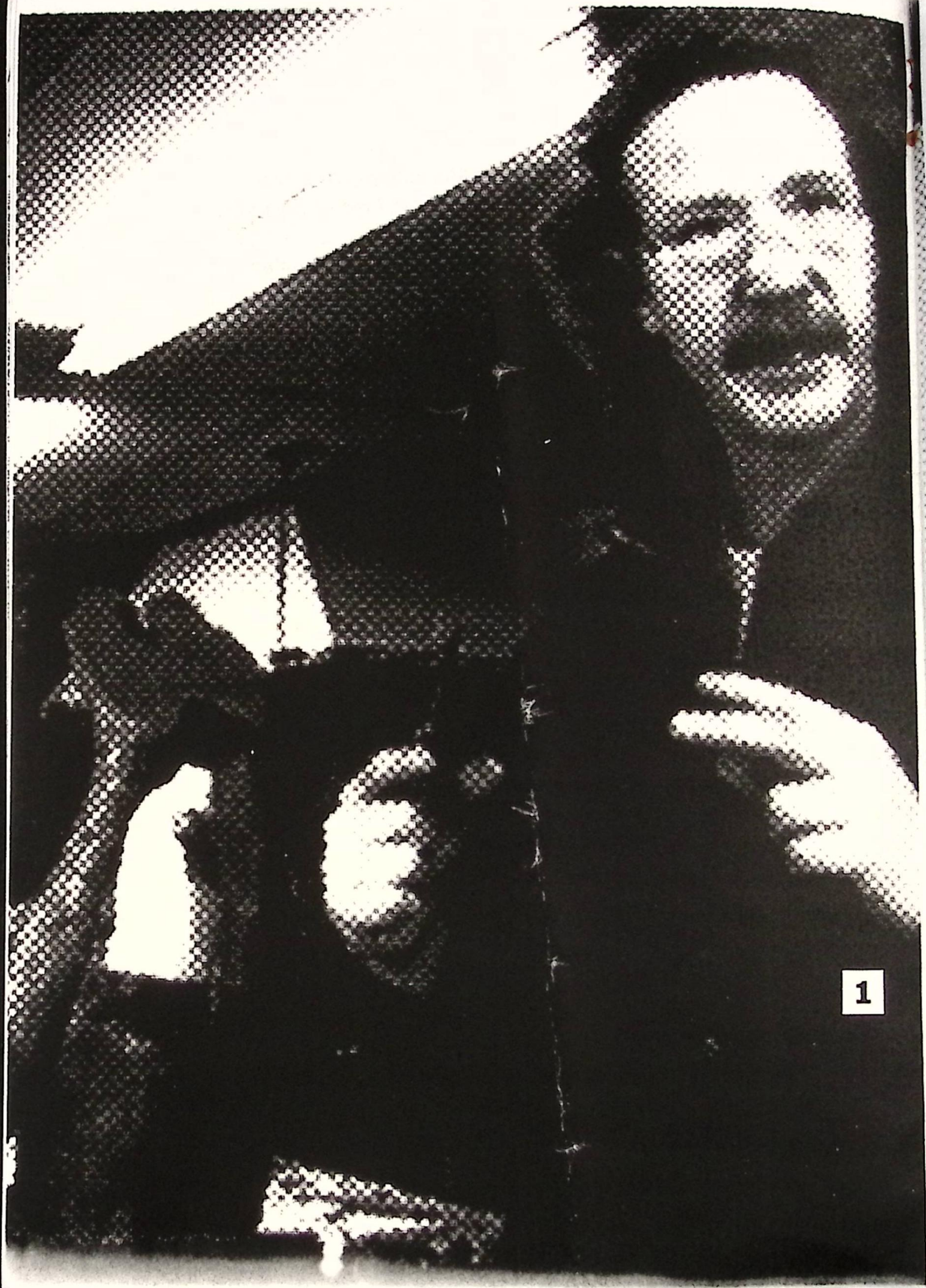
KENNY HUNTER
Castlemilk Writers Group

INTRODUCTION

Castlemilk Environment Trust in association with the Arts and Cultural Develop-ment Office for the South East Area of Glasgow, developed the "Gateways and Landmarks" project as one part of an overall regeneration program in the Castlemilk area entitled '9 for 99'. This program seeks to invest over £700,000 in urban and environmental redevelopment with a £100,000 spent on the 'Gateways Public Art Project alone'. The other projects that make up the programme include a town square, six environmental development sites and the appointment of a project officer to oversee the programme as a whole.

One of the most important aspects of the Gateways project has been the commitment to creating a sense of community awareness and involvement. The first step towards this was the creation of an exhibition which ran from the 9th to the 12th of August 1999 in the Fringe gallery in the Castlemilk shopping centre. The exhibition presented the 5 winning submissions of the nationally advertised design competition and a brief history of the artist's chosen.The second step was to secure a commitment from all the artist's involved to six full days of workshops with the community. This was done with the emphasis placed upon the quality of the work-shops for those involved, the premise being that each of the artists chosen had very specific skill sets and that the most successful workshops would be the ones that exploited these fully.

An invitation was sent to all the community groups registered in the area to become involved with the artists and the project, how-ever only six responded and so these became the groups with whom the artists worked.The partnerships were as follows; Rick Kirby and the Castle Out of School Care Kids, Doug Cocker and COJAC, Paul Grime and St Bartholomews Primary School and the Castlemilk Youth Complex, Dan Archer and the Castlemilk Women's Group and Kenny Hunter and the Castlemilk Writers Group.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RICK KIRBY

Rick Kirby is an artist living and working just outside London, with an impressive body of work in both the gallery and public art realms and is currently working on a large scale commission to be situated opposite the Houses of Parliment, London. Working primarily with the figure he employs ingenious welding techniques to express, in steel, a fragility and vulnerability about the human form and It is precisely this aesthetic and technical approach which makes the work which he has created for Castlemilk so striking.

The sculpture, which will be Ricks first bronze, consists of two female figures balanced precariously on large poles, their hands joined to from an archway over their heads as they look down upon the people passing by below. It is a sculpture which evokes a sense of unspoken mutual support and it was this form of communication and sense of community that Rick choose to explore in his casting workshops with the children of Castle Kids Out of School Care. His workshops involved pairs of children taking plaster casts of each others hands in gestures of nonverbal communication. These were then used as molds to make concrete bricks from which are being used to build the seating area around Ricks sculpture.

2

DOUG COCKER

Living and working in the north east of Scotland, Doug Cocker has over the years established himself as one of Scotland's foremost sculptors. He has exhibited widely in both solo and group shows in spaces as diverse as the Morioka Hashimoto Museum of Art in Japan to The House for an Art lover in Glasgow. It is this strong studio and gallery practice which enables a continued development of Dougs ideas and an aesthetic sensibility that he in turn brings to his public commissions of which, again, there are many.

The sculpture that Doug has created for Castlemilk called, "light columns (up and up)" is a granite piece which aims to explore the notion of Castlemilk's regeneration, its new aspirations and hopes for the future. Working with the children of COJAC who have a wide range of disabilities, Doug explored this idea of regeneration further, encouraging the children to express how they experienced this new Castlemilk and what it is that makes Castlemilk important to them. This was done through workshops using various painting and collage techniques resulting in the production of lots and lots of images which are at the moment being transformed into flags which will fly on the flag poles adjacent to Doug's skyward reaching columns. There is also the opportunity through the very mobility of the flags, to have them situated in other areas of Castlemilk in the future.

3

PAUL GRIME

Paul Grime is a public artist based in the borders who works in a wide range of artforms and media including sculpture, murals, mosaic and metalwork. He has a wide experience in the area of public art and as such was a contributor to feasibility studies commissioned by the scottish development agency that led to the establishment of both the Dundee Public Art Programme and "leith; People and Places", a 3-year public art programme in Leith. His work can be seen in various sites around the country and is currently working on a three year programme for Barrow Borough Council,which consists of Architectural glass, metalwork, colour work and landscape design.

Prior to the development of the Gateways project Castlemilk Environment Trust commissioned a one off sculpture from paul, a canoe which is situated on Ardencraig road, an integral part of this commission was the involvement of local school children in its development. Therefore when paul was successful in his design bid for one of the Gateways it seemed appropriate for him to work with the people within the community with whom he had already formed links. The sculpture that Paul has created for the Gateways Project explores the powerful and historic connotations of the notion of 'Gateway' and through his casting workshops with the children of St. Bartholomew's school and the Castlemilk Youth Complex, he developed the design and composition of images which were then engraved upon the pink granite of the finished sculpture.

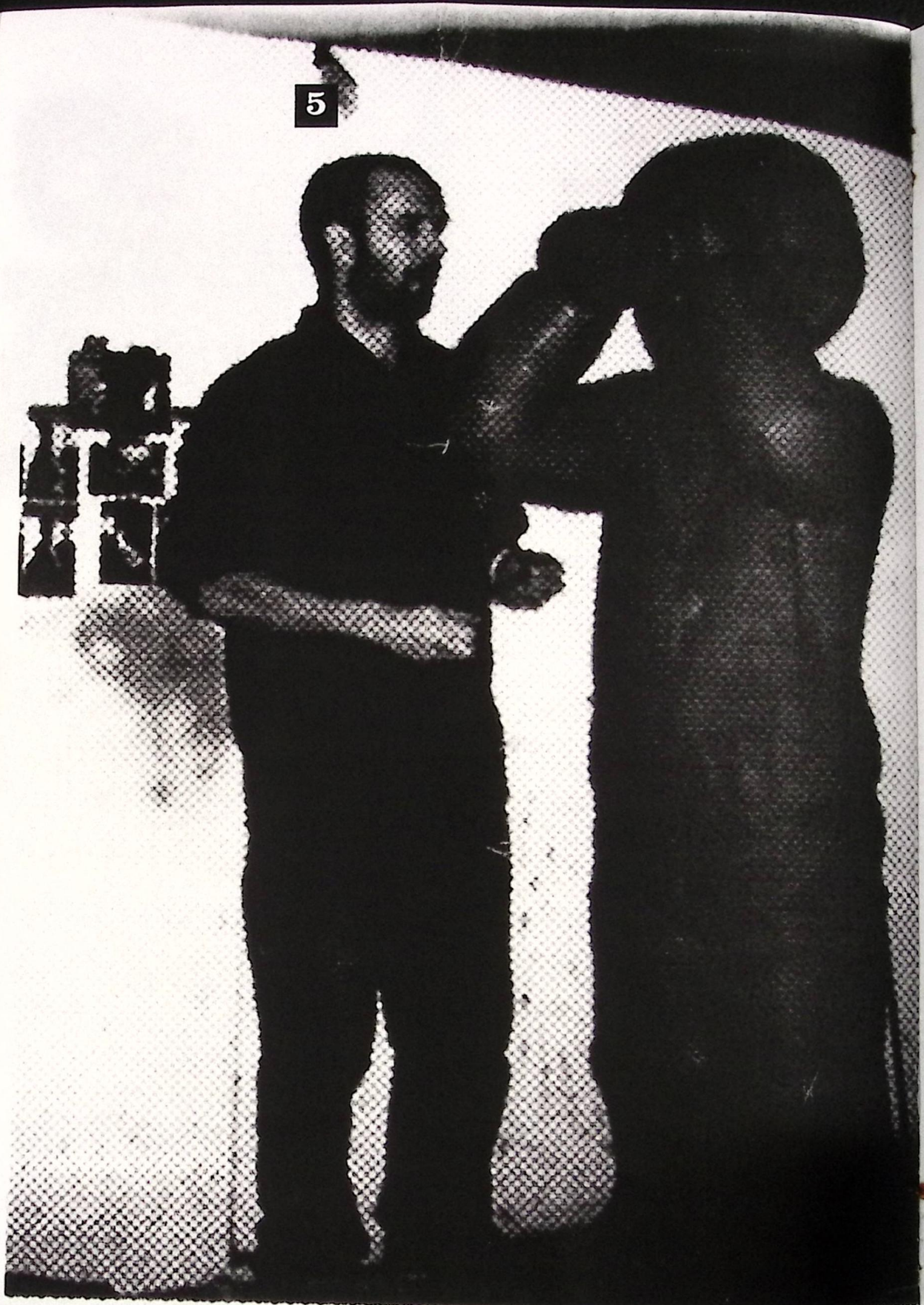
4

MICHAEL DAN ARCHER

A lecturer at Loughborough College of Art and Design, Michael Dan Archer is a sculptor who's work favours a creativity informed by technical skill. His work expresses the timeless preoccupations of the sculptor, the most obvious of which remains the perennial preoccupation of a keen sense of material. He has exhibited widely both here and abroad in particular Japan were he lived and worked for a number of years, the absolute purity of form inherent in his work being the legacy of his time there.

The sculpture Dan has created for Castlemilk is concerned with exploring the idea of renewal and evolution and takes the form two very large pieces of french Dolomite Limestone which he has cut and carved and pol ished to create a large spherical disc which stands torn apart on either side of the road at the corner of Croftfoot Road and Fernhill Road.

His workshops were with the women of 'Castlemilk women's group' and utilised his expertise as both a stone carver and tutor. The workshops consisted of three days hands on stone carving with the women who were all within the 60 to 75 age group, culminating in the production of some remarkable work. In doing this he hoped to stimulate the women's interest in sculpture as a whole so that the next part of the project, where they would be involved in the production of a small bronze piece which will be secreted about the sculpture on site, would be more productive and creative for them. There is also a book making workshop proposed to document the whole process.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KENNY HUNTER

Kenny Hunter is a Glasgow based artist who is an accomplished and highly successful sculptor in both the gallery and public context. His public work ranges from the well known cherub perched above the Tron theatre in Glasgow to a series of bronze busts of anonymous children situated in Quarry Street Hamilton. He has a strong studio and gallery practice which is clearly evident in his subversive 'civic/monumental' public sculptures which are more likely to be cast in some sort of resin than carved from a huge block of stone. The sculpture Kenny has created for Castlemilk is particularly interesting in the terms that both the material used, reconstituted stone and a form of plastic resin, and the subject matter, a small anonymous boy peering through binoculars over the city serve not only to subvert our ideas about civic sculpture but to subvert or notions about the place we find this sculpture in...Castlemilk.

Through his collaboration with the Castlemilk Writers Group, Kenny explored further this idea of looking at Castlemilk in the midst of redefining itself and amongst the lively discussions that were the norm at the Monday night meetings and the subsequent trip to the Garden of Ian Hamiton Findlay, pieces of text were submitted by the writers to become part of the sculpture itself. After much deliberation a piece of text was chosen and it is now cast into the dome part of the sculpture upon which the young boy stands.

There is no conclusion...as of yet

Gateways and landmarks is an on going project with an exhibition in the Fringe Gallery of all the work produced in the various artists workshops scheduled for May /June 2000 and another 10 smaller landmark works to be created next year. Instead this seminar should be viewed as an opportunity for an overview. A chance for us to learn from our mistakes and recognise our strengths before the next part of the project.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

10.00 Practical advise regarding funding, planning and development
Matthew Finkle (Project Officer)
John Ferry (Arts & Cultural Development Officer S.E. Area)
Lewis McSween (Director of Planning Glasgow City Council)
Apologies from *The Scottish Arts Council*

11.15 Coffee Break

11.30 Tour of Sculptures

13.30 Panel Discussion chaired by *David Harding* (Head of Sculpture and Environmental Art, Glasgow School of Art) covering the artist's and communities experience of the project and the wider issue of a public art strategy within Glasgow as a whole.
Panel includes: Project artists, *Rick Kirby*, *Doug Cocker*, *Paul Grime*, *Michael Dan Archer* and *Kenny Hunter*.
Maris Channer (Head Teacher of St Bartholomews Primary School), *Ray McKenzie* (Author of, "Sculpture in Glasgow" and Senior Lecturer at Glasgow School of Art) and *Ricardo Marini* (Planning Dept,Glasgow city Council)
Question and Answer session

16.00 Close

CASTLEMILK ENVIRONMENT TRUST
Glasgow
The Arts & Cultural Development Officer S.E. Area
THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL
National Lottery Fund